

NO. 52.

Question of Vital Importance

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Who should marry and who should not marry is a question of vital importance in

marry is a question of vital importance in the deliberations at Boston of the Prison association. It is a question that sooner or later must be boldly confronted by church and state alike. Like begets like all the world over from man down to

animalism. As the parents are so will the children be. It is a law of nature that cannot be repealed, yet in its effect is filling the prisons, hospitals and insane asylums of the land to overflowing, adding to the sum total of crime and misery in the community. It is a law of the law abiding, the industrious, to support the diseased, the criminally base and the constitutionally depraved and lazy. An Indiana delegate to the association put the matter in a terse and thought inspiring way. Mr. Reeves attacked the civil law that was forcing the poor man to support the criminal, and for permit, that no matter who was strong or weak, the strong or the weak minded, the sound and healthy, or the deformed, the millionaire or the hereditary pauper, all are given a permit alike, and this civil contract is thus fully completed by sanction

But when he comes forward to get a permit to enter into a contract, the most sacred that can be assumed, which vitally affects the bodies social and politic, as well as corporal, not a word is said. All are licensed. The church regards marriage as a holy covenant. It makes little or no inquiry as to candidates. So we have a shocking view of marriage upheld by church and state. A constant increase of nunnery and crime must follow. Man-

find it to their interests to improve the races of horses, dogs, cats, cows, chickens, pigeons and other animals, but that race whose members are formed in the image of the Creator must take its chances and do its mating after the fashion of a lottery. Chance rules the selection of men and women for the holy offices of parentage, and that chance does its work is shown by the statistics of criminality in this and other countries.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

On the avenue, where his duty consists of walking up and down, up and down in a monotonous manner, the policeman fol-

lows the fashion of the wells that parade before him. One glove only is worn, and that on the left hand, which clasps tenderly the other neatly folded white bit of cotton, while his right hand is free to swing nonchalantly his club.

In the business portions of the city the presiding genius in blue discards gloves as a rule, and his hands are free to grapple with any obstreperous member of the exchanges who may feel particularly happy. But he possesses gloves, you know that, for you see them just protruding above his breast pocket.

And down where the outcast portion of

humanity exists, the strong, muscular guardship of the law walks about bare-handed, for the men with whom he comes in contact scarcely know what gloves are. But there is an exception to the general rule—a new man on the force always wears both gloves until he finds out the fashion of his district and accommodates himself accordingly.—New York Evening Sun.

American View of English Manners.
No class in the world, probably, is judged so little on its merits as the English upper class. At home it casts a

glamour on women's eyes, a glamour so great that Mr. Durwin absolutely believed it physically superior to other classes, although another social observer, Mr. Edward Jenkins, made, a few years since, the remark: "Why noble ears should be so ugly is a problem of nature," and this strikes the American visitor to the house of lords as being nearer the truth. So great is, at any rate, their lingering prestige among Liberals, that a leading London reformer once told me that it was almost essential to the success of a radical meeting to get a lord to preside at it, and I have myself

been present at such a gathering in London, when one of the few really good speakers I ever heard in England—a man full of information on the very point at issue, and expressing it admirably—was put down, in that brutal way only seen among Englishmen, through the impatience of the audience to hear a dull and inarticulate lord, who had nothing to say and said it.

A class thus situated cannot be judged by what is said about it in its own name; and when it is transplanted it is apt to drift among a class of similar admirers abroad. No doubt there are noblemen in England whose manners a critical Ameri-

can would all high bred; but it is certain that one may travel a good deal in that country, and even go through a considerable course of London dinner parties, without having the good luck to encounter a specimen.—T. W. Higginson in *The Forum*.

'The Indian's Bark Canoe.

The bark canoe is the Indian's chef d'œuvre. It seems to me not only a beautiful object, but a suggestive emblem of his life. It is the most natural boat in the world; to make it he peels the bark from a birch, splits a cedar for timbers

and planks, binds it together with roots, and closes the seams with pitch from the pine. His tools are an ax, a crooked knife, and an awl made of a deer's bone. No compass and square cover his weakness, for every piece tells the exact truth of his hand and eye; not even a bench removes him from the earth, nor a roof covers him from the sky; he kneels at his work. And the women embody their attachment in the pitch they press into the cracks. It is nature's model, made by the wild man in the woods. The life of the bark canoe is equally poetic; it floats through mountain lakes with the beaver.

and runs rapids with the other; indeed, all its companions are creatures of the forest; it is faithful to nature to the very last, when it retires to the shore of some lonely pond to mold under its mound of feathery moss.—C. H. Farnham in Harper's Magazine.

Weather Changes.

It has been observed in Italy by Palmieri that on a clear day, with every indication of continued fine weather, the electrometer will indicate a change long before the barometer.—Arkansas Traveler.

